

6th September 2011

Professor dr ir P.J.M. van Oosterom
OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment
TUDELFT
Postbus 5030
2600 GA DELFT

Subject: Support for MAPS4SCIENCE initiative

Dear professor van Oosterom,

It is with great interest that I have learned about your initiative to develop a large scale research facility Maps4Science. From our role as a European network of spatial data production and research teams, a facility like this is important to us. There is a clear need for scientists, academics and production experts to work together throughout Europe to solve common problems. As a consequence, ready access to authoritative, representative data sets is enormously valuable for applied research projects such as those supported by EuroSDR.

EuroSDR is a pan-European organisation established by International Treaty, as OEEPE, in 1953 in Paris in accordance with a recommendation passed by the Council of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation. The spatial data research interests of seventeen (current membership) European countries are represented through the membership in EuroSDR of national organisations from their production and research sectors. The result is a network of delegates, from European Geographic Information organisations and research institutes, effectively and practically addressing Europe's spatial data research requirements.

Collaborative research projects address the acquisition, management and delivery of spatial data and services while international workshops and courses, in collaboration with related organisations, address key issues in a timely and focussed manner. EuroSDR is a European not-for-profit organisation.

We support your consortium and your application because we see real benefits for our organisation as well as the Netherlands science community. We see potential to develop authenticated systems of sharing pan-European GI datasets in a manner that gives confidence to both data providers and users. This will allow EuroSDR to continue with applied research projects that have pan-European relevance. The proposed initiative will thereby help to remove barriers that often exist in exchanging representative and authoritative datasets.

We hereby declare that our organisation is open to discuss opportunities of this facility for further using and exploring our existing datasets, in particular those that have been generated by our project teams in recent research projects.

Maps4Science is an important initiative that will be a crucial enabler for many scientists to improve and extend their research. Maps4Science will enable the Netherlands science community to reach and keep a top level position in a broad range of science domains, allowing you to play a leading role in the research and innovation into open, shared, and linked location data and how it can be used in many fields of science. The Netherlands is a highly valued and consistently active member of EuroSDR and I, on behalf of EuroSDR, wish to give my enthusiastic support to this project.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Jean-Philippe Lagrange
President, EuroSDR